

### AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously presented) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C#/Db, D#/Eb, F#/Gb, G#/Ab, and A#/Bb;

the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D#/Eb is the first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a third user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note A#/Bb is the second user discernable characteristic.

Claim 14. (Original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 13, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of B, E, A, D, and G;

the position marker for each note B is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note A is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note G is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

Claim 18. (Original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 17, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

Claim 19 - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C, D, E, F, G, A, and B;

the position marker for each note C is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note F is the third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note G is a fourth user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note A is a fifth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note B is the first user discernable characteristic.

Claim 22. (Original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 21, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) ~~The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein~~ A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:  
an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major pentatonic scale;  
at least three of the position markers of said array have user discernable characteristics that are different from each other;  
the position marker for the first note of an individual major pentatonic scale is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the second note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the third note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the fourth note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for the fifth note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim ~~2325~~, wherein:

the group of notes consists of the G major pentatonic scale where

the position marker for each note B is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note A is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note G is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 26, wherein:

the first user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape;

the second user discernable characteristic is a square shape;

the third user discernable characteristic is a triangle shape;

the fourth user discernable characteristic is a semicircle shape; and  
the fifth user discernable characteristic is a circle shape.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim ~~2325~~2325, wherein:

the group of notes consists of the F#/Gb major pentatonic scale where  
the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note D#/Eb is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note A#/Bb is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

Claim 29. (Currently amended) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim ~~2325~~2325, wherein:

the group of notes consists of the F#/Gb major pentatonic scale where  
the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note D#/Eb is the first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a third user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note A#/Bb is the second user discernable characteristic.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 29, wherein:

the first user discernable characteristic is a circle shape;

the second user discernable characteristic is a square shape; and

the third user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape.

Claim 31. (Canceled)

Claim 32. (Canceled)

Claim 33. (Currently amended) ~~The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 31, wherein:~~ A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:  
an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a  
component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed  
instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of  
the stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the  
stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major scale;  
at least three of the position markers of said array have user discernable characteristics that are  
different from each other;  
the position marker for the first note of an individual major scale is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the second note of the individual major scale is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the third note of the individual major scale is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the fourth note of the individual major scale is a fourth user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the fifth note of the individual major scale is a fifth user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for the sixth note of the individual major scale is a sixth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for the seventh note of the individual major scale is a seventh user discernable characteristic.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim ~~31~~33, wherein:

the group of notes consists of the C major scale where

the position marker for each note C is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note F is the third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note G is a fourth user discernable characteristic.

the position marker for each note A is a fifth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note B is the first user discernable characteristic.



Claim 35. (Previously presented) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 34, wherein:

the first user discernable characteristic is a circle shape;

the second user discernable characteristic is a semicircle shape;

the third user discernable characteristic is a square shape;

the fourth user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape; and

the fifth user discernable characteristic is a triangle shape.

Claims 36-37. (Canceled)